



May 10, 2013

Mr. Douglas Bell, Chair
Trade Policy Staff Committee
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Chairman Bell,

On behalf of the growers, processors and affiliate members of the American Olive Oil Producers Association (AOOPA), we appreciate the opportunity to testify at USTR's hearing being held on May 29th and 30th concerning the proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement with the European Union. As the Executive Director of AOOPA I will provide comments on the AOOPA's trade objectives for TTIP negotiations.

AOOPA is an organization comprised of growers, processors and state olive oil associations that develops sound governmental policies to promote a fair and honest market in order to protect the U.S. olive oil consumers from fraudulent olive oil.

AOOPA plans to address the following TTIP objectives: the economic costs and/or benefits in removing tariffs and non-tariff barriers, product sensitivities, customs measures including rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, regulatory compatibility including ideas on how to create greater compatibility, administrative costs/delays due to regulatory differences, and trade related intellectual property rights issues among others.

Sincerely yours,

Alexander J. Ott
Executive Director